

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-02 /005 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES:EY

APPROVED BY EA/K:DRLANARD

ARA/CEN:JGSULLIVAN

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R 162137Z AUG 74

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, CS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION INVITED TO LEAVE COSTA
RICA

WE ARE REPEATING SAN JOSE 3082 FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE USE IN DISCUSSIONS OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

QUOTE: AN OFFICIAL NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, WHICH HAS BEEN IN SAN JOSE SINCE JUNE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, WAS ORDERED EXPelled BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO ON AUGUST 12. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, REPORTEDLY ACTING ON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT ODUBER, TOLD THE NORTH KOREANS THAT THE GOCR WAS NOT INTERESTED IN EITHER DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATION IN SAN JOSE AND, GIVEN THIS ATTITUDE, THERE WAS NO FURTHER POINT IN THEM STAYING AROUND.

COSTA RICA ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA LAST FEBRUARY, BUT AT THAT TIME FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD THE EMBASSY IT DID NOT CONTEMPLATE EXCHANGE

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OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE NORTH KOREANS SENT A DELEGATION,

LED BY THE VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO THE MAY 8
INAUGURATION CEREMONIES OF PRESIDENT ODUBER AND DURING THAT
TIME APPARENTLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING

AN EMBASSY HERE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FACIO TURNED THE
NORTH KOREANS DOWN ON THE SPECIFIC REQUEST, BUT SUGGESTED
THEY COME BACK LATER TO TALK ABOUT IT. THEY CAME BACK IN
JUNE TO THE CONSTERNATION OF MANY IN THE FOREIGN MINIS-
TRY WHO WERE WORRIED ABOUT SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE BE-
HAVIOR OF A NORTH KOREAN MISSION. FACIO WAS UNDERSTOOD TO
HAVE RECENTLY PUT THE NORTH KOANS OFF AGAIN BY SUGGEST-
ING THEY COME BACK IN SIX MONTHS, BUT TO BE RELUCTANT,
GIVEN HIS PREVIOUS POSITION, TO GIVE THEM A FLAT NO.

ODUBER SEEMS TO HAVE NOW RESOLVED THE PROBLEM.

"LA NACION" REPORTED THE NAMES OF THE 6-MAN NORTH KOREAN
DELEGATION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE AUGUST 14, AS
FOLLOWS: SHEL-SEH KIM, CHIEF; HAC RONG CHOI; KIONG RONG
KIM; RONG SU CHAN; CHING RIONG KIM; AND WONG JENG KIM.

COMMENT: SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO
EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 13 THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED
BY EMBASSY REGARDING MEXICAN EXPERIENCE WITH NORTH KOREA
WAS DECISIVE IN CONFIRMING GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO EXPEL NORTH
KOREANS. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXPULSION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE180576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDFORBES:EY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740226-1144
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740840/aaaabhyj.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION INVITED TO LEAVE COSTA RICA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, KN, CS
To: ALL POSTS USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005